



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Chairmen Osten and Horn, Ranking Members Champagne and Howard, and the distinguished members of the Public Safety Committee,

The Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association (CPCA) is an association that represents the interests of all the police chiefs in the state. Collectively, the members of the association oversee the operation of more than 7,000 law enforcement personnel and close to 100 law enforcement agencies. CPCA would like to offer position statements on the following bills.

SB 132 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE AND USE OF CONSUMER GRADE FIREWORKS

CPCA does not support this bill. The bill is of concern to CPCA due to the fact that it will allow residents to purchase and use commercial grade fireworks of a certain size. There is a safety concern here. Every year around certain holidays, law enforcement agencies respond to numerous calls from residents complaining of illegal use of consumer grade fireworks. It is the fear that allowing residents to use consumer grade fireworks will result in increased calls and injuries due to the misuse of these products.

SB 135 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS

CPCA supports this bill. The passage of this bill is of the upmost importance to law enforcement agencies in the state. The current law that requires all law enforcement agencies to become Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) accredited is unattainable for a majority of departments throughout the state. These departments are not able to meet the CALEA standards due to the required changes to their buildings which would involve a significant financial cost, or moving from that building entirely. Currently, departments can apply to become CALEA accredited or can be

accredited through one of the three different levels of Police Officer Standards and Training (POST). It is important to note that POST is a CALEA accredited agency. POST also offers additional training requirements that are specific to Connecticut. An example of this is the more extensive training on Domestic Violence than what is required under CALEA. There is also the reality that departments will not be able to meet the CALEA deadline of 2025. The removal of the CALEA mandate in this bill is one of great importance to dozens of law enforcement agencies and the municipalities that they serve. While CPCA is very supportive of agencies that are able to meet the CALEA accreditation and maintain that standard for their agency, there needs to be an alternative for the POST accreditation.

HB 5175 AN ACT ALLOWING POLICE OFFICERS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED RELATIVE TO FIRE OR EXPLOSION LOSSES.

CPCA supports this bill. The exact language of this bill passed the Senate in the 2018 legislative Session in SB 469. This bill would help law enforcement officers obtain information regarding fires. Current law allows law enforcement officers to only be allowed to request information from insurance companies if the loss or potential loss of property is due to fire of suspicious or incendiary origin. This bill would allow them to request information regardless of the nature of the origin of the fire.